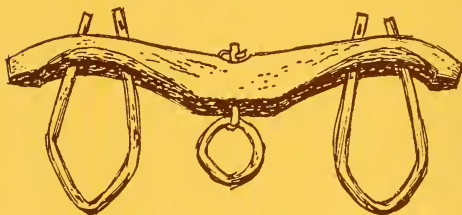


ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN GREAT BRITAIN

BY

BEVERLY W. HOWE


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ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN GREAT BRITAIN

—BY—

BEVERLY W. HOWE

Author of
Two Hours and Two Minutes
and
"He Rescued the Slaves"



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BEVERLY W. HOWE

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The Lincoln Group of Chicago is comprised of men who are Lincoln lovers and followers of the Lincoln trail. The group has about two hundred members. They meet at least once a month at luncheon when there is a round table discussion or an address by a student of the life of Lincoln. Beverly W. Howe is a Chicago lawyer, lecturer and publicist. He is a member of the Lincoln Group and of the Abraham Lincoln Association. He is a Director of Lincoln Memorial University of Harrogate, Tennessee.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN in GREAT BRITAIN

Delivered by BEVERLY W. HOWE

Before The Lincoln Group of Chicago
October 19, 1939

25054 HSEARCH

One day, when my wife and our daughters and I were discussing the plans for our trip to Europe this last summer, one of the girls remarked, "On this trip Daddy will not be looking up any Abraham Lincoln places as he always does when we are touring anywhere in this country". I made no reply. I long since learned, when we are planning or starting on a trip, it is better to spring on them a contemplated Lincoln excursion as we get to it rather than long in advance. I

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always find that, while there may be some slight demurring, usually in a facetious vein merely, they are always glad to enjoy with me these excursions.

As a matter of fact, I knew of one Lincoln statue I could and certainly would see in London and hoped investigation might bring to light other Lincolniana in England which we should be glad to see. In fact, upon inquiry, I found some interesting Lincoln information in other countries of Europe before arriving in England.

Since I have been riding the Lincoln hobby I have frequently discovered that among its many advantages is the company it sometimes affords one. With this in mind, and always interested in libraries and bookstores,

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whenever I have leisure that might otherwise become wasted moments in a strange town or city, I go into a bookstore and browse a bit. When I begin to suspect that I may be overstaying my welcome unless I show special interest in something, I say, "What books on Abraham Lincoln have you?" Invariably this extends my license to remain in the store and frequently discloses that the man who theretofore had been looking daggers at me shows that he also is interested in Lincoln, and we have trouble separating in time for either of us to get down to ordinary business.

Well, I had two or three such experiences in European countries, which I will not discuss in detail. By such a course, I will say, however, I located some Lincoln volumes in book stores

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in Italy. In Emilio Bassi's store in Siena, one of the beautiful hill towns of Italy, I found Emil Ludwig's Lincoln translated into Italian. On the cover it was referred to as "Storia di Un Filio del Popolo", which Mr. Bassi, who speaks English better than I read those Italian words, told me means "The Story of the Son of the People."

I found the same book in a librarie, as they call bookstores in Italy, at Florence.

The real purpose of this paper, though, is to tell of my experiences in Great Britain this last summer relating to or involving Abraham Lincoln. Even before I was infatuated by the recitation of the Gettysburg Address in "Ruggles of Red Gap" by Charles Laughton, who in that play was an

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English gentleman's gentleman, I knew that Abraham Lincoln was highly regarded and well known in England. One way I found it out was listening here at the Lincoln Group a few years ago to a distinguished English author, who was introduced here as a guest by our esteemed fellow member, Jewell Stevens. I refer to John Middleton Murry, who told us then that Abraham Lincoln was held by Englishmen in the same high esteem as Gladstone and other British heroes.

For the benefit of guests who are here for the first time I will say that the members of this Group are all enthusiastic Lincoln lovers, and any member coming across in his travels or his reading any incident, however slight in the opinion of others, about

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Lincoln, which is new to the member in any of its aspects, assumes it will be interesting at least to his fellow members of the Lincoln Group.

After touring parts of Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and France, we entered England at Southampton, crossing the channel from Havre. We arrived there on August 2nd and were met by an English courier who took us by motor up the west side of England and Scotland and back on the east side of Scotland and England to Southampton whence we sailed for home on August 30th. It was during this thirty-day period that the incidents occurred which I shall try to relate.

At Oxford one of the interesting places we visited, in addition to several of the colleges, was Rhodes House, a

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modern building constructed recently with money left by Cecil Rhodes in addition to that from which the expenses of Rhodes scholars are provided. It is designed as a gathering place for Rhodes scholars and is very beautifully and adequately equipped in all its appointments, including a beautiful hall and auditorium and a library. In the library I looked at once in the United States section for Lincoln books. I was rewarded by finding a set of Nicolay and Hay, a Beveridge, a Charnwood, a copy of Edgar Lee Master's *Lincoln the Man* and Putnam's (1912) *Lincoln-Douglas Debates*.

En route from Oxford up to the Shakespeare country one of our most interesting stops at the end of a lovely tour from the main road was at Sul-

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grave Manor, the Northamptonshire home of George Washington's ancestors. It is near Banbury, England, in the Center of which is the famous Banbury Cross, which we saw as we passed through the city. The house has been restored with beautiful gardens surrounding it and is operated by the Sulgrave Manor Board, Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, the headquarters of the English Speaking Union.

“Sulgrave Manor was the birthplace of Rev. Lawrence Washington — great-grandson of the builder — whose son, Colonel John Washington, left England in 1656 to take up the land in Virginia which later became Mount Vernon.

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“In 1914 Sulgrave Manor was presented by a body of British subscribers to the peoples of Great Britain and America in celebration of the Hundred Years’ Peace between the two countries. The restoration and refurnishing have been carried out with taste and scholarly care, and it now presents a perfect example of a small manor-house and garden at the time of Shakespeare, himself a near neighbor of the Washingtons.”*

We were thrilled at Sulgrave Manor to see the American flag flying. We were thrilled also with the place in all its aspects, both in detail and as a whole. Every American visiting England should see Sulgrave Manor if he has an opportunity.

When we were going through the

* Quoted from Sulgrave Manor booklet.

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Museum Room, which contains many Washington relics, large and small, Mrs. Howe called my attention to three little buttons in one of the glass cases. They gave me a bigger thrill and a greater satisfaction than anything I saw there. They were three 1864 campaign buttons, each containing a likeness of Abraham Lincoln!

Having expressed to the manager of Sulgrave Manor my elation at the discovery there of the Lincoln campaign buttons, he realized my interest in Lincolniana and asked me if I knew about the Lincoln statue at Manchester. I had to admit I did not. He could not tell me at what point in the city it is. From then on I kept it in mind and made inquiry about it from time to time. Manchester was not on our itinerary as made up before we

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left Chicago. From thenceforth, however, it *was on* it so far as I was concerned.

The nearest city on our itinerary where we were to stay long enough to go over to Manchester was Chester. We were to and did stay there two nights and one full day which had been set aside for sightseeing in the city. Chester dates back to the Roman occupation of England, and the original old part of the city is completely encircled by the famous wall, on top of which one may walk around and view that part of the city. Among other interesting places to be seen in the large on this two hours' walk are the Race Course, "the Rows", that is the buildings with entrances on two levels, and the famous cathedral. All four Howes walked around this wall

after dinner, just before dark, the night of our arrival at Chester. I realized a fine day of sightseeing was in store for us there the next day. But, I reasoned, "if I did not go over to Manchester the next day when would I get to see the Lincoln statue over there?"

I had inquired of everybody I could exactly where in Manchester the statue was. No one was able to tell me. When I retired that night I had not found anybody in Chester who knew definitely there was such a statue. I got up early the next morning and set out again in search of the exact location of it. One man I interviewed was an artist and author. I asked him if he knew where in Manchester was the Abraham Lincoln statue. He said, "No, I did not know there was one there; but there should

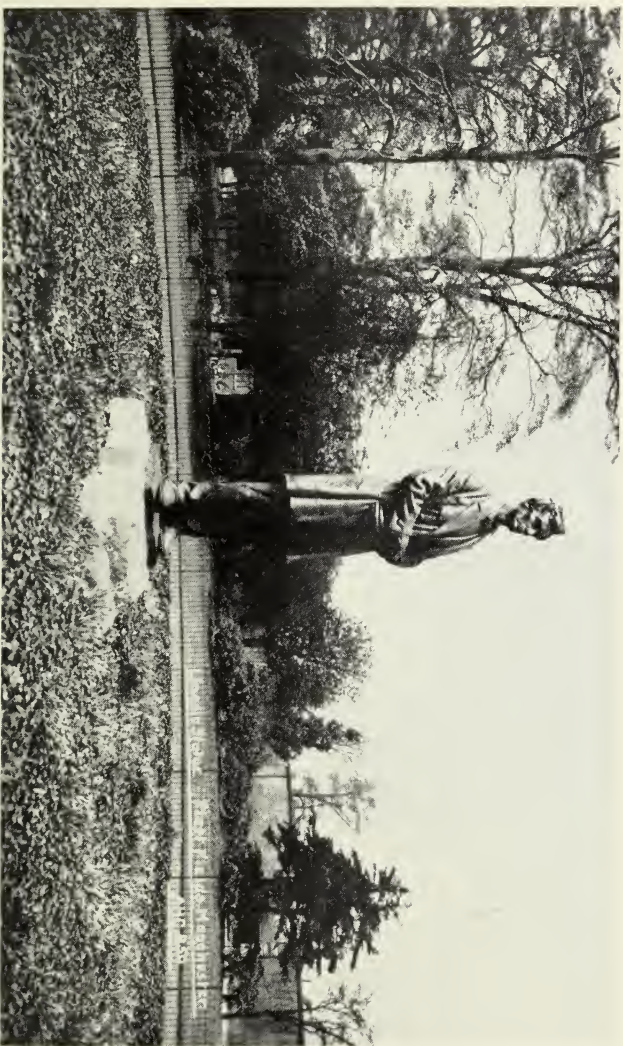
be one in every city in England". I said, "Why?" He said, "If for no other reason on account of his Gettysburg Address".

This was encouraging so I kept up the search. Of course I did not want to drive 150 miles over to Manchester and back and not find the statue. I went finally to the public library of Chester. The librarian did not know, but at my request and at my expense he consented to call up the library at Manchester. He was told yes it was there in Platt Fields in South Manchester.

That settled it for me. I was going to Manchester. At about noon, having finished such Chester sightseeing as required the car the courier and I took the car and started for Manchester, leaving the ladies in Chester to

do the Cathedral and other places where they did not need transportation. Now Manchester, as many of you probably know, is the center of one of the most extensive manufacturing districts in the world, and the fourth city in size in England. Only London, Birmingham and Liverpool have a greater number of inhabitants than this city of about three quarters of a million population.

Arriving there early in the afternoon we inquired of several Bobbies at intersections before we found out where Platt Fields was. Finally we found it, and realized it was a sort of recreational park, with playgrounds, bowling greens, art gallery and museum and the like. As we pulled up to the entrance I got a glimpse of Old Abe and was out of the car walking



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over to him immediately. It was enchanting indeed to look upon this statue of Abraham Lincoln in a foreign country!

As I walked up to it I saw an elderly gentleman and lady sitting on a bench nearby. As if I did not know, I asked them who it was. There was no name or inscription on the statue in large enough letters to be read that far away. The lady said promptly, "It is Lincoln". Walking nearer to it I discovered a plaque containing the following:

"This Monument of Abraham Lincoln, the work of George Gray Barnard, was, through the friendly offices of the Sulgrave Institution and the Anglo-American Society, given to the City of Manchester by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Phelps Taft, of Cincinnati,

Ohio, U. S. A., in commemoration of Lancashire's friendship to the cause for which Lincoln lived and died, and of the century of peace among English-speaking peoples. 1919."

It is a replica of the original statue in Cincinnati not far from the Taft Home there. Another replica is in Louisville, Kentucky.

While nothing specifically is said on the plaque or elsewhere about it so far as I could discover, undoubtedly the interesting contact Lincoln had during the Civil War with the working men of Manchester had much to do with the statue being erected there. As you will recall, the blockade of Confederate ports during the war was naturally a severe blow to the English manufacturing centers like Manchester, which had depended upon the

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Southern States for their supply of cotton. But the working classes of England, in marked contrast with the upper classes, displayed strong Union sympathies throughout the struggle. Lincoln received an address and resolutions from the workingmen of Manchester praising his administration and the ideal for which he was struggling. In reply Lincoln wrote a letter of appreciation, dated January 19, 1863.

For copies of this letter I am pleased to acknowledge my indebtedness to Rev. W. E. Clark, Pastor of the City Church of Gary, and to my friend, Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director, Department of Lincolniana, Lincoln Memorial University, who is well known to many of you.

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“Letter to the Workingmen of
Manchester, England. Executive
Mansion, Washington, January
19, 1863.

To the Workingmen of Manchester:

“I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of the address and resolu-
tions which you sent me on the eve of
the new year. When I came, on the
4th of March, 1861, through a free
and constitutional election to preside
in the Government of the United
States, the country was found at the
verge of civil war. Whatever might
have been the cause, or whosoever the
fault, one duty, paramount to all
others, was before me, namely to
maintain and preserve at once the
Constitution and the integrity of the
Federal Republic. A conscientious
purpose to perform this duty is the

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key to all the measures of administration which have been and to all which will hereafter be pursued. Under our frame of government and my official oath, I could not depart from this purpose if I would. It is not always in the power of governments to enlarge or restrict the scope of moral results which follow the policies that they may deem it necessary for the public safety from time to time to adopt.

“I have understood well that the duty of self-preservation rests solely with the American people; but I have at the same time been aware that favor or disfavor of foreign nations might have a material influence in enlarging or prolonging the struggle with disloyal men in which the country is engaged. A fair examination of history has served to authorize a belief

that the past actions and influences of the United States were generally regarded as having been beneficial toward mankind. I have, therefore, reckoned upon the forbearance of nations. Circumstances—to some of which you kindly allude—induce me especially to expect that if justice and good faith should be practiced by the United States, they would encounter no hostile influence on the part of Great Britain. It is now a pleasant duty to acknowledge the demonstration you have given of your desire that a spirit of amity and peace toward this country may prevail in the councils of your Queen, who is respected and esteemed in your own country only more than she is by the kindred nation which has its home on this side of the Atlantic.

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“I know and deeply deplore the sufferings which the workingmen at Manchester, and in all Europe, are called to endure in this crisis. It has been often and studiously represented that the attempt to overthrow this government, which was built upon the foundation of human rights, and to substitute for it one which should rest exclusively on the basis of human slavery, was likely to obtain the favor of Europe. Through the action of our disloyal citizens, the working-men of Europe have been subjected to severe trials, for the purpose of forcing their sanction to that attempt. Under the circumstances, I cannot but regard your decisive utterances upon the question as an instance of sublime Christian heroism which has not been surpassed in any age or in any coun-

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try. It is indeed an energetic and reinspiring assurance of the inherent power of truth, and of the ultimate and universal triumph of justice, humanity and freedom. I do not doubt that the sentiments you have expressed will be sustained by your great nation; and, on the other hand, I have no hesitation in assuring you that they will excite admiration, esteem and the most reciprocal feelings of friendship among the American people. I hail this interchange of sentiment, therefore, as an augury that whatever else may happen, whatever misfortune may befall your country or my own, the peace and friendship which now exist between the two nations will be, as it shall be my desire to make them, perpetual. Abraham Lincoln."

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Parenthetically, I would state that we learned there are in Manchester now people who are as fine as those Abraham Lincoln was writing to and about. A few days after these experiences at Manchester, at the Old England Lake Hotel, a lovely spot in the English Lake region where we stayed for several days, we became acquainted with, and indeed learned to love, a gentleman and his wife from Manchester, who, at the same time we were there, were spending a part of their holiday, as in England they call vacation, at the Hotel. The gentleman is an executive of one of the large mills where the successors of Lincoln's workingmen correspondents are employed.

While I was looking at the statue, three little boys who had been playing

nearby came up and stood by me. I asked them who that was. All said "Lincoln". I said, "Who was he?" One said, "He rescued the slaves". I doubt if every American boy would make a better answer than that. My grandmother, a slave owner, would have said, with a decided tone of anger, "He freed the niggers!"

During this time the courier was back several hundred feet taking some pictures of the statue while I was making notes about it. Soon several other boys and girls had congregated. I think there were ten in all. They wanted to know what I was doing there and I explained that I was an American, born in the same state where Lincoln was born, and living in the same state from which he went to the Presidency of the United

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States and in which he is buried, and for these and other reasons was an ardent Lincoln lover. I then told them a little about Abraham Lincoln, how he was born in a log cabin, had suffered many hardships, had very slight organized education, became a great lawyer, a great orator and rose to the highest elective position in the world, is remembered by liberty loving people in all the nations of the world as their magnanimous fellow man, and his career gives assurance to young people of every country, no matter how under privileged, that they, too, can arise by their own efforts to heights of success.

Some of my gang, as I got to calling them before we separated, were little tots and all of them might well be classed as "dirty little urchins" so far

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as outward appearances were concerned. But they manifested great interest. You would not want a better audience than they constituted. After I concluded my little speech to them, I got them in unison to repeat after me: "Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States, one of the heroes of the American people and friend of all mankind". It was a struggle for some of the little fellows, but they all went through with it so satisfactorily to me that I gave the oldest girl in the party, who said she was eleven, a shilling, with instructions for her to get it changed and give each member of the gang twopence. A few minutes later when I went into a nearby store looking for some postal cards of the neighborhood I was greeted by most of the gang, each of

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whom had evidently been exchanging his or her twopence for candy.

The courier took pictures of Lincoln and our gang and me, one or two of which may be good enough for you to recognize us. They are here if you wish to look at them when I conclude. The oldest girl in the gang wanted to know of me what the pictures were for and expressed a desire to have one. In fact, after we came out of the store and were getting in the car to leave, hoping apparently she would see herself in the picture, she asked me if they had already been developed! I was sorry to have to disappoint her by saying, "No". I have wished since that I had taken the names and addresses of the whole gang so I could send each of them one of the pictures.

This Manchester statue, as I learned

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from the manager of the Museum nearby, was originally in a prominent place in the public square in the business district of Manchester and was moved to make room for the cenotaph or World War Memorial now standing there. We drove down there several miles to see its original location. In that prominent location I saw the elaborate cenotaph and statues of the Prince Consort, Gladstone and the Duke of Wellington, among other distinguished British heroes.

Learning after arriving in Manchester that Lloyd George had been born there, though of Welsh parents, I made it a point to look up the house, which still stands in a remote part of the city. The house, from some standpoints and by comparative standards, might be said to be as lowly as the

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log cabin in which Lincoln was born. I wondered how much of a coincidence it could be that on the journey to see Lincoln's statue in Manchester I had, as it were, run into the birthplace of this distinguished British Statesman from whom I shall later herein quote a few words about Abraham Lincoln.

While in Northern Ireland for a few days I realized that there was a miniature statue of Abraham Lincoln in Dublin presented to the Irish Free State early in 1937 by John McCormack's son in behalf of the famous singer. Our time all being spent in and near Belfast, I did not have an opportunity to see it.

Scotland's capitol and second city, and the center of its religious and intellectual life, is Edinburgh. It is rich

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in memories relating to the life of Mary Queen of Scots and the struggles and success of the great presbyter, John Knox. One of the most beautiful spots in Edinburgh is the square in East Princess Street gardens, the center of which is the imposing monument to Scotland's literary genius, Sir Walter Scott.

The Calton Cemetery, an old and most interesting monumental cemetery where are buried many famous Scotchmen, is not far from this Square. In this cemetery is the Lincoln Monument in memory of Scottish-American soldiers, which was unveiled August 21, 1893. Being in Edinburgh several days we made three trips to the cemetery to see the Monument. On each of two trips the gate was locked. When our third effort

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was successful on the morning when we were leaving Edinburgh, a Scotch mist—a heavy one, too—was over the city to such an extent that we had to stand in the rain to inspect the Monument and could not take any pictures. Our daughter Lou and I made notes of all the inscriptions on the statue, including the names of the Scottish-American soldiers commemorated by it. Lincoln is standing and holding a manuscript in his right hand, and his left is behind his back. He is wearing his beard. The American shield is represented in the middle of the pedestal on which he stands, and at the base of the pedestal is a slave, apparently appealing to him. At the right is this quotation from Lincoln: “To Preserve the Jewel of Liberty Is the Framework of Freedom”. Across

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the bottom of the base are the words: "In Memory of Scottish-American Soldiers". Around the bottom of the base four words appear, as follows: "Emancipation, Education, Union, Suffrage". Also appears here the name of the Sculptor and architect, George E. Bissell, and the following inscription: "This plot of ground given by the Lord Provost and Town Council of Edinburgh to Wallace Bruce, U. S. Consul, as a burial place for Scottish soldiers of the American Civil War 1861-5."

In a booklet issued by Bryant Literary Union, New York, this monument has been described with pictures. I shall not try to give you more detail about it here. I will only say to you what I find I wrote in my diary on August 21st after seeing this Monu-

ment that day: "It is inspiring to anybody, more so to Americans and most so to Lincoln lovers".

Also on August 21st, following in quick succession the experiences just related, we visited Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's famous home, and the ruins of Melrose Abbey and an old cemetery adjacent to it. In this cemetery I discovered a whole family named Todd, which was the name, as you will all recall, of Abraham Lincoln's Wife, Mary Todd. Immediately there came to my mind incidents from the book of my dear friend, William H. Townsend of Lexington, Kentucky, entitled "Lincoln and His Wife's Home Town". I also recalled an occasion when with Mr. Townsend I was visiting some of the places described in his book and we stood at

the burial lot of the Todds in the Cemetery at Lexington close to the towering shaft of Henry Clay's monument. As we stood there looking at the many gravestones with the name Todd on them, "T O double D", he told me that the last survivor of Mary Todd Lincoln's sisters, whose grave was the freshest of all, had told him not long before her death, when they were standing in the same spot, that Lincoln, who always got along fine with the Todds but enjoyed joking about them as well as he did about anything or anybody else, said, "God could get along all right with one D in his name but the Todds had to have two!" In the light of this incident, believe it or not, with characteristic Scotch economy every marker in the Tod lot in the cemetery adjacent to

the ruins of Melrose Abbey was spelled T O D.

Doubtless you are all aware that Abraham Lincoln's earliest known ancestor lived and died at Swanton Morley and was buried at Hingham, England. Well, Hingham was not on our itinerary and I knew it was rather out of our way and I had not planned definitely to go there. One day when I was studying up something else in the copy of Baedeker on Great Britain, which we were reading more than our Bible while we were in England, I came across this: "From Norwich to King's Lynn * * * 14 miles is Kimberly Park, the seat of the Earl of Kimberly. Hingham Church, 3 miles to the West, contains a bust of Abraham Lincoln, whose earliest known ancestor, Robert Lincoln (d.

1543) * * * was buried at Hingham''. I knew this was not far from Larling, England, where within a day or two we were to visit John Middleton Murry to whom I have already referred.

At this point I quote the following from my diary covering the red letter day—August 23rd: "Our visit to John Middleton Murry at his lovely home, The Old Rectory at Larling, and tea with him and his wife on the lawn, and seeing their three lovely children, and going with him into his writing den, library and parlor, and his autographing for Lou a copy of his book on Keats which she is to use in the classroom at Wellesley this next year and for me and Jewell Stevens copies of his latest book, 'The Defense of Democracy', was the high spot of

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the day and one of the most enjoyable features of the whole trip. My friend, Jewell Stevens, who urged me to call on Mr. Middleton Murry, whom he had introduced to us at the Lincoln Group of Chicago, has my profound gratitude for the favor."

Now, though I had no private word at all with Mr. Middleton Murry about Hingham, as we were getting into the car to leave his home, he said, bless his heart, "I suppose, of course, you are going over to Hingham". It was then towards the latter part of the afternoon and my wife and daughters thought we were going on into Cambridge where we were to spend the night and which was about 25 miles away. They looked rather nonplussed, but when I read them the foregoing extract from Baedeker with amplifi-

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cations they readily consented and we started for Hingham. We were richly rewarded. We found the church and the graveyard and the bust. The name of the church is St. Andrews and it is a very pretty little church. The bust is in a prominent place on one of the walls and underneath it is this inscription, which our daughter Isabelle, copied for me:

“In this parish for many generations lived the Lincolns, ancestors of the American, Abraham Lincoln. To him, greatest of that lineage, many citizens of the United States have erected this memorial in the hope that for all ages between that land and this land and all lands there shall be malice toward none with charity for for all”.

The one statue of Abraham Lincoln

in England about which I knew before arriving there is in London opposite Westminster Abbey. My friend, Judge John C. Lewe, our chairman and others had told me about it. When we arrived in London in the middle of the afternoon of August 24th, Parliament was holding that special session into which it had been called soon after the Russo-German pact had been signed. Excitement was high. We did not know how many of the six days we had planned to spend in London before sailing for home on the 30th might have to be spent in a more quiet place close to Southampton from which we were to sail. Having talked this situation over first with our travel bureau, and having learned at the Hotel Savoy as we got settled there that 100

Americans had left there that day and 65 more were anxious to leave, I went immediately to the American Embassy to talk things over. Coming away from there realizing that unless the tide of onrushing war changed greatly we would have to leave sooner than planned—maybe that night—I had the taxi driver take me back to the hotel “by way of Buckingham Palace, the Parliament Buildings and Westminster Abbey”, as I told him, because I knew that would take me by the Lincoln statue, which I wanted at all hazards to see. Later we all saw it again, because, remaining for three of our six days, we saw pretty much everything sightseers usually see in London which had not been closed due to the war crisis then existing. Lincoln is standing before a chair, as he is in

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Lincoln Park at Chicago, and on the pedestal is inscribed, merely, "Abraham Lincoln". It is in a prominent place, and with it there are statues of many of the most distinguished British heroes.

In the Hotel Savoy itself, where we stayed, I found to my great surprise and satisfaction that their largest banquet hall is called the Abraham Lincoln Room, and in it is a bust of Lincoln from which it gets the name. The bust is by McDougal and was erected there in 1923 and bears this inscription: "This bust was presented by the Right Hon. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., in memory of many historic gatherings connected with the United States of America which have taken place in this room. The bust was unveiled by the Marquis Curzon of

Kedleston, K.G., P.C., G.C.S. I.G. C.I.E., in the presence of H. E. (His Excellency) The American Ambassador and representatives of the Corps Diplomatique attached to the Court of St. James 29 October 1923”.

Time will not permit me to tell in as much detail as I might otherwise the circumstances leading up to my discovery of this room and bust. But I will merely say that this room, which was pictured in the October 2nd issue of *Life* as the air-raid shelter of the Savoy Hotel, with a prominent Chicagoan as one of the guests in it, is the room which the hotel had assigned for use as refuge for guests in the event of air raids. We were shown the room and it was explained to us that in the event of a raid guests would be notified and taken there and cared for. We never

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had to go there for that purpose, but finding out it is named for Abraham Lincoln I inquired why, and my investigation led to the development of the facts I've given you.

From some newspaper clippings, which, through the courtesy of my esteemed friend, Gerald McMurtry, hereinbefore mentioned, I have been permitted to examine, I have learned there is a bust of Abraham Lincoln at the Royal Exchange in London. This bust was carved by Andrew O'Connor, distinguished American Sculptor, from black limestone quarried near Lincoln's birthplace and given to the British Lincoln Committee by the sculptor as a token of gratitude for several years spent as a student in London. It was formally presented February 12, 1930, to the Gresham

Committee by the Marquess of Crewe. It is of heroic size, portraying Lincoln in middle age, before he was elected to the Presidency.

From "Memoirs of the Peace Conference", a book by David Lloyd George heretofore mentioned, recently off the Yale Press and which I have seen since our return, I wish in coming to a conclusion, to quote two paragraphs. I look forward eagerly to a more thorough reading of these two volumes. Having visited Versailles and sat, as it were, where he and Wilson and Clemenceau and their associates sat, I am sure it will interest me greatly. In one of the chapters of his book he is comparing and contrasting Woodrow Wilson, with whom of course he was well acquainted at first hand, and Abraham

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Lincoln, whose life he had evidently studied carefully. On account, especially, of what this grand old British statesman, a member of English Parliament for almost fifty years, and whose career includes both a prominent part as British Prime Minister in the World War and at least some activity in Britain's behalf in connection with the present European War, says in these paragraphs about Lincoln, I wish to include them here:

“Unconsciously Wilson copied Lincoln—his stories, his vivid phrases, his human appeal. In spite of this unconscious imitation there never were two men who offered so complete a contrast in intellect and character. Lincoln's wit and humour were the natural flow of a gay and genial temperament and of a keen sense of the

merry as well as the ridiculous. Wilson had no humour and his wit was synthetic. Wilson was a man of outstanding ability — highly cultivated and polished; Lincoln was a man of genius. Lincoln had the practical common sense of a son of the soil. He was intensely human and therefore hated war with its abominable cruelty. Above all his heart was tortured with the thought that he had to kill and maim and starve and deny medicaments to tens of thousands of his own fellow-countrymen, and he did his best to avert it. I once read a biography of Lincoln which gave photographs of this resolute but warm-hearted humanitarian at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of the Civil War. By the last act of the tragedy anguish had chiselled deep furrows in

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his brow and countenance. Gaiety had been chased from the humorous eyes, and deep sadness and grief reigned in their depths. But once war was declared he went all legitimate lengths to achieve victory for what he conceived to be the cause of right. He did not haver and hesitate. He concentrated all his powerful mind on the most effective means and instruments for winning through. Wilson also abhorred the carnage and savagery of war — he also did his utmost to keep out of it — he also was driven by an irresistible current which he could not control to resort to it against his will, and after prolonged efforts to keep out of it. There the comparison ends and the contrast appears. When he finally committed himself to the struggle he did not, like Lincoln, put all his

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energies and abilities into preparing for battle. He continued to display his aversion to the war he had himself declared by failing to throw his strength of mind and will into its energetic prosecution.

“He was genuinely humane, but he completely lacked the human touch of Lincoln. The hand was too frigid. It gave you the impression that Wilson’s philanthropy was purely intellectual, whereas Lincoln’s came straight from the heart.”

Abraham Lincoln, of course, never visited Great Britain or any other foreign country. I hope from what I have said to you today you will feel as I do, that to us, as Lincoln lovers, as well as to all Americans, it should be a matter of great pride that he nevertheless has exercised such a big influ-

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ence upon the people of Great Britain and become one of their idols along with the most popular of their own heroes.

As some of you know, I have been bold enough to say on occasions that Lincoln was well nigh Christ like. Recently, since returning from our trip, I have been saying that in all the countries of Europe they need more religion, more Christianity. Naturally then, as proud as I am that his influence evidently has been greatly felt there, I believe they are in need of even more of Abraham Lincoln in Great Britain.

